

EDITORIALS

Off to Good Start

Some indication of where Torrance is heading in 1955 might be gleaned from the figures compiled by the building department here during the first week of the year—more than \$1,000,000 in permits for new construction.

However, according to all signs, this is merely a hint of things to come. High on the list of probabilities for the year is the commercial development of large areas of Torrance, the selection of Torrance for the location of a number of new industries, and the acquisition of a large Torrance industrial property by a neighboring firm on which to build a large new plant here.

Commercial development of the airport property at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy. has been virtually assured with the indication that the Federal government will grant the city's request for slackening of restrictions on the use of the land turned over to the city following World War II. The final approval of this may come from the government this week, city officials have been told.

Other commercial areas on Hawthorne Ave., in south Torrance and in north Torrance should attract new business to the area during the coming year.

The first week in 1955 has done nothing to blunt our prediction that the year will be one of the city's greatest.

The Tears We Shed

In the 126th Psalm it is written: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." As far back as mankind remembers, tears have been the traditional weapon of woman. Now, there seems to be a possibility that tears may become a potent weapon for the medical profession.

A dramatic development in the long, tense fight against cancer is the recent announcement that researchers are on the track of a substance contained in teardrops that may inhibit the growth of cancer cells.

We must be extremely guarded in our hopes. Too many promising trails have failed to carry through. Nevertheless, preliminary studies to break down the mystery of the teardrop have already yielded encouraging results.

It would not upset precedent to discover that the human body produces cures for its own ills. Fever is a destroyer of harmful infection. Liver substance can cure pernicious anemia. Saliva often heals wounds. Frequently the thing we seek is so simple and so close to us that we fail to recognize it.

It will be akin to poetic justice if the tragic sea of tears shed by pain-wracked humans should ultimately be used to assuage their suffering. The conquest of such scourges as cancer, polio, and muscular dystrophy, when it comes, will be the biggest news of the century.

In the meantime the research and the work of human salvage must go on. Your generous response to the appeal of the March of Dimes, the cancer, MD and similar fund raising campaigns will do much to hasten the day of victory over these terrible enemies.

There are those who believe this to be even more important than to stupidly blunder into an atomic war.

Love is Here to Stay

It is always good to read the small-type items that prove most marriages succeed.

In Loma Linda, San Bernardino county, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Lambeth have just celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. She is 96 and blind. He is 103 and bed ridden. Their formula for a happy marriage? "Healthful living, trusting in God, and loving each other."

Then there is Philip Ludicio, who inserted this classified ad in a St. Louis newspaper:

"I am responsible for all debts and obligations of my wife, and am more than happy to be the provider for a woman who . . . has made the past 21 years of loving kindness the nicest years of my life."

Love may be, as the song says, "just around the corner," but it seems to be here to stay.

IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL



OF ALL THINGS

Strictly Fresh

By Robert B. Martin

It must be a frightening experience to be a member of a jury faced with the task of making a life or death decision.

The name (Dr. Sam Sheppard, continues to run through this writer's mind . . . Sam Sheppard . . . Doctor Sam . . . what of the questions that were never fully answered in the case of this Ohio osteopath who has been given a life term for the murder of his wife Marilyn?)

Would a doctor club a woman to death or would he use a more suitable means? Would a man kill his wife . . . especially when he knew she was soon to bear a child?

What happened to the "bushy-haired man" who was seen running away from the house that day?

WHAT OF the pieces of nail polish found under the bed . . . and beneath the dead woman's fingernails? It did not match her brand and color.

That bit of broken tooth found in the room . . . not Marilyn's . . . the cigarette butt found by a police officer. Dr. Sheppard doesn't smoke cigarettes and his wife used only one filter-type brand.

It is not this writer's intent to judge the man one way or the other. This has already been done by a jury. HE HAS been given a life sentence on a second degree murder rap, and after ten years, he can be freed.

Better this than a death penalty; for if the man is not guilty of the crime, someone is going to stumble across the proof sooner or later. And the police will be more than happy, because it is not their intention to jail a man for a crime he did not commit. More than a hundred men confessed to the murder of the "Black Dahlia" here in Los Angeles some years ago, yet the crime remains unsolved . . . but someday, somewhere, it is almost a certainty that the police will nab the killer.

There are few, if any, "prima donnas" in the police department today . . . few, if any, endowed with the all-but-superhuman powers of Sherlock Holmes. But as a team, and by using scientific methods, a modern police department has a formidable detection rating.

For the sake of the murdered woman we would like to see Dr. Sheppard proved guilty beyond the shadow of a doubt . . . or we'd like to see the man freed, proved innocent. This would lead to a new and concerted effort to find the killer.

Surprising how much good the average citizen can do for his police department, yet many of us would avoid appearing as a witness to an accident, street fight, robbery or other violent incident.

Perhaps someone else saw the man with shaggy hair? Perhaps a woman saw him jump into a car . . . or a youth glimpsed him as he fled over a hill.

We wrote up the robbery of a liquor store sometime ago in which one man remained at the door as a lookout and the other held a gun out and the other held a gun out and the other took the cash. As far as the vic-

tim could tell, they escaped our feet.

This was the "modus operandi," the police decided. But the crime went unsolved.

A few days later, a woman called to say that the story had been "written up wrong," that "we didn't even mention a third man who had been waiting around the block in a car."

SHE HAD WITNESSED the crime, yet it didn't dawn on her that her information would be of great value to the police! Then again, she added: "I didn't want the neighbors to see policemen running into my house."

After explaining that it was her duty as a citizen to tell what she'd seen, she agreed to give us her address. We turned it over to the police.

An hour later, two plainclothesmen called at her home. They looked like young salesmen . . . smiling, courteous, agreeable. The interview that lasted only a few minutes, and they left with just enough information to establish the "modus operandi."

Three men, known to have followed this pattern in a robbery they were jailed for in the past, were brought before the liquor store proprietor. He recognized two of them. The third man confessed. They're still doing time.

Is there a witness who has not as yet come forward in the Black Dahlia case? The Sheppard case? Has anyone overheard a careless remark, a boast?

It doesn't take much to break . . . the perfect crime.

Fog got so bad during the west coast's recent attack of smog that pelicans and sea gulls wouldn't risk flying. Only bird-brains were the motorists, who racked up more than 2000 accidents.

Residents of Playa del Rey have changed the name of Moscow St. to Sandpiper St., "for obvious reasons." An invasion of sandpipers, maybe?

Gates to "Heaven" were closed for the holidays in Germany. Officials shut down the post office at Himmel, which is German for Heaven, to prevent commercialization of the name.

New high in skepticism was displayed by safecrackers in Los Angeles, who blew open a safe despite a note containing the combination which was attached to the strong-box.

Fellow in Omaha, Neb., proposed to a policeman in an unsuccessful effort to avoid being judged for petty larceny. Why didn't he just ask for a life sentence?

OUT OF THE PAST

30 YEARS AGO

January, 1925

Officials in the Torrance area were boosting a 100-acre site in the Palos Verdes hills for the University of California at Los Angeles campus. They were confident that this site would be chosen in preference to the other choice in Westwood, where the university was finally located. . . . Using a 17-year-old boy as "bait," police nabbed a man who was called the "high school bootlegger." This led to call for drastic enforcement of curfew and dance hall rules by city officials.

The City Fathers were considering a plan to add a new lighting system along Carson St. and Western Ave. which would cost an estimated \$100,000. . . . The Board of Trustees declared there was a "crying need" for a new City Hall. . . . Free mail boxes would be given to all mail subscribers; the HERALD announced. . . . Enrollment at Torrance High School had increased 30 per cent from the previous year. . . .

SIGN OF THE TIMES: A local mechanic broke his arm cranking a truck.

20 YEARS AGO

January, 1935

The new Torrance Municipal Water Department announced it would move to new quarters at 1510 Cravens Ave., where it is now located. The city had recently purchased the system. . . . The first case in the new Justice of the

The SQUIRREL CAGE

It's Your Country

By JOHN BECK

By REID BUNDY

For those of you who were aware of the frantic pace set by our postmen during the holiday season, this is to let you know that everything is back to normal. The special delivery clerk brought a letter to the HERALD office at 4:23 p.m. Friday. According to the postmark, it was mailed in Torrance at 4:30 p.m. the same day. It got here seven minutes before it was mailed. Not much you can say against service like that, eh?

Many never know if their next check will come from Joe or Jack. But all I wonder about mine is, Will the blamed thing come back!

If you don't believe in Providence, try driving from here to Pasadena on the freeways and try to figure out what else saves some of those jokers in their 235-horsepower autos.

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover's report last week that crime in the United States has increased about 5 per cent during the past year doesn't take into consideration the fact that there were even greater strides made in man's frantic search for legal ways to steal. Somebody figures out one every day.

News stories last week about a sniper wounding a man on Roy Rogers' yacht at Newport Beach must have come as a shock to small fry who heard about it and who had been led to believe that the cowboy hero spent all of his time chasing rustlers and bad hombres wearing black hats.

Friend of ours down the street got a new radio set for Christmas, something he had always wanted for his den. When he referred to it as his Bannister clock, however, we were a little puzzled until he told us that it did an hour in 45 minutes.

How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? If finally wound up making only one resolution, and I've kept that one so far, I resolved that during 1955 I would not eat any squid, octopus, or turnips.



LAW IN ACTION

DID I SIGN THAT?

No one else signs his name exactly like you. In signing your name, you start a chain of legal events that are hard to stop.

1. Be sure you know what you sign and how it will bind you. Always keep a copy and don't let anybody talk you out of your copy.

2. Most of us buy goods on time on a conditional sale contract where the goods are not ours until you make all payments. Miss one, and the seller may take the goods back and keep your past payments.

3. You may also buy personal property — car, appliances, livestock, or machinery — subject to a chattel mortgage. "Chattel" merely means the things are not real estate. You pledge them to secure the debt. You own the car, say, and mortgage it to secure your debt.

After you sign an installment contract, you may want to put a sign in the bank and save interest. You may not do so unless your contract says so in writing.

4. Formalities: The law may call for formalities when you sign certain papers. For example, at least two witnesses are needed in the presence of each other and the will-maker. Note the signing; you may have to tell about it in court.

5. Leases: When you rent a home, your lease should set out what rent you are to pay, how long you must rent, what notice you or your landlord must give to end the lease, and who is to pay for any

False Claims for UN LEFT WING LITANY: It is interesting to note how and where and when catchwords of the Communist party line bob up on the American scene. With the prestige of the United Nations at an all-time low, James J. Wadsworth, Deputy U. S. Representative to the UN, describes anti-UN sentiment as "a wave of reckless, unfounded charges against the United Nations being waged by a small group of small organizations with histories of extreme nationalism and hate-mongering."

Note the catchwords: reckless, unfounded charges; extreme nationalism; hate-mongering—favorites of the Daily Worker and all the various Communist front publications. Had "character assassination," "witch hunting," and "book burning" been added, the litany would have been almost complete.

Reckless and unfounded charges by "a small group of small organizations" would hardly seem to call for rebuff by a pantheon of so-called "distinguished" Americans, but such concerted rebuff has been made via the left-wing press.

SIMPLICITY: Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. says the charge that the UN is a nest of Communist spies is not so "for the simple reason that there is nothing to spy on at the United Nations." How beautifully simple! Presumably, the delegates, representatives, and employees at UN headquarters are confined there without means of egress or of contact with anyone on the outside! Compactly seem to call for American intelligence. Mr. Lodge adds: "No American citizen employed by the United Nations has ever been prosecuted for espionage." That quite a number of them escaped such prosecution only by invoking the Fifth Amendment, when asked whether they were Communists, is a fact conveniently ignored by Mr. Lodge.

Paul G. Hoffman, especially "distinguished" for his connection with the questionable committee for an Effective Congress, brands as "fantastic" the charge that UNESCO is interfering with the curriculum of American school children. He cannot deny, however, that the series of UNESCO booklets, "Towards World Understanding," are a prescribed course of training for both children and teachers and are widely used in our educational system.

These UNESCO booklets stress internationalism and "world-mindedness" as paramount objectives, while they refer to nationalism as a "disease" with which the children are "infected" by their families. UNESCO urges that children be removed from the "poisoned air of nationalism" and that textbooks and maps be revised to conform with the ideal of internationalism.

Rev. Tenny K. Sherrill, member of the National Advisory Board of the United World

Federalists, disputes the charge that the UN is Godless. But silent prayer, he says, "is as far as we can get at this time." Through consideration for the atheistic and pagan members, no sign, no spoken word, of God is permitted at the UN. Obviously, God is too controversial for admittance.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt answers with characteristic Eleanorian logic the charge that the UN is promoting world government. "If one will read the Charter," says this oracle of left-wing wisdom, "it is quite clear that each member nation wishes to keep its sovereignty."

ALSO CLEAR: It is also quite clear, if one will read the entire Charter, that no matter what each member nation may "wish" to do, it cannot keep its sovereignty and the defense of the UN Charter. This has already been demonstrated to American sorrow, especially by U. S. participation in the Korean War and by the lack of U. S. effort to obtain the release of American soldiers imprisoned in Communist countries.

But Mrs. Roosevelt does not stop merely with an interpretation of the UN Charter. She adds a palliative by reminding us that an American treaty requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate. So it does; but the all-important word that Mrs. Roosevelt neglected to add is "present"—two thirds of the senators present and voting. There could come a day when a world-minded President would send a treaty to the Senate for ratification when such senators as Lehman, Fulbright, Kefauver, and their ilk were conveniently "present" and comprised the required two-thirds!

NONSENSE: The most sweeping, and surely the most nonsensical, defense of the UN was offered by Nobel prize winner, Dr. Ralph Bunche, who made this astonishing statement: "Without it (the UN), relations among nations would be subject only to the law of the jungle. This would mean an end to human progress, indeed to civilization itself, and all life would be reduced to a barbaric struggle for sheer survival." All the results of thousands of years of civilization, all the accomplishments, wisdom, skills, and virtues of mankind, dependent upon the 10-year-old UN; such asinine deserves no further comment.

In an attempt to minimize the financial cost of the UN to the U. S., Harvey S. Firestone Jr. (Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.) states that we pay "less than a third." Figures are not yet available for 1954, but in fiscal 1953 we paid \$29,986,303 (83rd Congress, 2nd Session, House Document No. 410).

The foregoing are examples of the specious claims being made by proponents of the UN. Americans would be wise to give such claims careful examination before swallowing them, hook, line, and "suckle."

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